

**AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2014**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Alan Baker	Joanne Drapeau	Al Floyd	Albert Grant	Jim Halloran	
Barbara Sherman	Dick Sherman	Dick Sullivan	Tom Talamini	Deb Talamini	Scott Tripp

ABSENT:

Ken Francis	Sue Gaffney	Ray Jones	Lois Noble
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GUEST: Rebecca Talamini and Jim Richards, the liaison from the Board of Selectmen.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:05 PM

2. **MINUTES** of Regular December 19, 2013 approved with 4 abstentions.

3. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** 5. d. Tree Cutting on Trails 5. e. Park & Rec Meeting

4. **ON-GOING / OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. River Review – It's high! And over the banks in several places and on the trail up to the bottom of the bridges. More cable will be needed to lasso them so the same problem of the floating away can be prevented. From the road views, it appeared that the river was open.
- b. Water testing – The 2 new meters which identify water temperature and PH were passed around. The new protocol for water testing will be available from Dr. Kirsten Martin. She also hopes that if anyone sees something out of the ordinary, that a sample is taken and reported back as much information as possible. The Scantic River Watershed Association approved the purchase of 2 meters.
- c. Scantic River State Park Trail – We had a really good showing for the New Year's Day Hike. There were 170 names on the board but that may not have included children and anyone who failed to sign in. Thanks to the Democratic Town Committee for providing hot chocolate and cider and hot dogs. Also thanks to John Burnham for providing the burn barrel. It all provided an atmosphere of togetherness after the walk and many stayed around talking. The portapot was a definite plus. Member Scott Tripp reported that \$164 in cash was collected and the large amount of donated food items were brought to the 5 Corner Cupboard.
- d. Window decals – 44 unsold, after 10 were taken by member Alan Baker, 2 sold at hike and 2 at meeting.
- e. December Work Party – Trail was checked prior to the hike. Members were thanked for the nice mud walks. Banner was hung at town hall parking area.
- f. Source to Sea Clean-up – Report showed that in 2011 we collected 4 tons, 2012 2.4 tons and 2013 1.03 tons. Perhaps we have caught up and now *sadly* only have the current dumped trash to collect.
- g. Social Media / Publicity – New posting of the hike on Face Book. Thanks to Member Deb Talamini for the publicity regarding the hike. We are now linked with SRWA and them with us. It is planned that the map of the state park will be posted.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. January 26 work party is scheduled, meeting at 8:30AM at Melrose Bridge to install posts for the planned kiosk. Area will first need to be cleared. Unsure if additional time will be available for other work. February 8 work party scheduled 9AM to install the kiosk. Sometime between these dates Chair Dick Sherman will build the kiosk, please let him know if you are available to assist.
- b. SRWA – Scheduled Super Bowl Sunday hike Feb. 2 starting at 10AM at Bailey Road, Enfield. March, the 29, 2014 is the Spring Splash. .

- c. CT Trail's Weekend – After much discussion, it was decided to schedule a hike for Sunday June 8th at the state parking starting at the Melrose Bridge. Member Alan Baker volunteered to put the information in the CT Forest & Park booklet.
 - d. Added: Tree Cutting on Trails Day – Member Jim Halloran passionately made us aware that we are stewards of the state park. We need to be very discerning in our maintenance so as not to badly impact the wildlife whose home is there. We must only cut down what is in imminent danger of falling down and hurting someone. Member Alan Baker reported that he will be attending a CT Forest & Parks seminar which will present techniques of what to do and what not to do in trail work. It is on February 2 and he invited others to join him.
 - e. Added: Park & Rec Meeting – Vice Chair Tom Talamini reported attending its meeting and hearing that the town survey results showed that residents were very interested in hike trails. Those present did not seem to know the extent of our work in creating and enhancing the trails at the state park. It was suggested that we use the Park & Rec website to add our information and make the public more aware.
- 6. Public input:** Rebecca Talamini offered to produce her map in any size we needed. Jim Richards suggested that we coordinate efforts with both the Park & Rec Department and the Historical Preservation Commission in order to increase trail use and offer more to our residents. He will provide contact information. Also, he mentioned that he had seen the picture of the hike in the Reminder.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman – 1/17/2014